

Mr. Frank N. Meyer, who was sent out to northern China in the summer of 1905 and who has been exploring the remarkable plant regions of the mountains north and west of Peking. His finds, coming as they do from a region with as severe a winter as that of the Middle States, will surely be, we believe, valuable to plant growers over a wide range of territory. In fact, the preliminary trials that have been made with these North Chinese plants in this country show that as a rule they have a degree of hardiness and resistance to disease which their close relatives from Japan, now so abundantly represented in our gardens and fields, do not possess. Mr. Meyer's explorations have been made into different places, difficult and sometimes dangerous of access, and at no little sacrifice of personal comfort and risk to his health and safety. The collections cover a wide range of things for which there is a demand already created by breeding, grafting, and other experiments which have been carried on in this country during the past decade. The material sent in is now in process of propagation, and as soon as ready will be sent out to experimenters.

Other collections worthy of notice are a number of new sorghums from tropical Africa, the home of the sorghum plant; a collection of the interesting new wet-land root crop, the yautia, from Porto Rico; some interesting new forms of potato from Bolivia; leguminous plants for breeding as fodder producers, collected from various parts of the world; forage and fodder grasses in large numbers from many different foreign countries; the Queensland nut *Macadamia*, which is a possibility for California; the South China soap tree, which has recently come into some prominence in Algeria as a source of saponin, a commercial product used in the manufacture of soaps; a collection of hardy grass and forage plant seed from the Austrian Alpine garden at an altitude of 5,700 feet; three new pistache species for breeding and for stocks on which to graft the ordinary edible variety of this nut, from the borders of Afghanistan, North China, and northern Persia; a collection of West Indian yams, promising possibilities as a change from the monotony of the Irish potato; a number of new Mexican apricots for the fruit-growing areas of Texas and the Gulf States; and a very important collection of the edible-fruited and fodder cacti, made by the cactus expert of the Department, Dr. David Griffiths, who has made experimental plantings of these most interesting plants in the dry regions of the Southwest.

DAVID FAIRCHILD,  
*Agricultural Explorer in Charge*

OFFICE OF SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION,  
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